

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~cleaning, disinfecting and drying plant~~ coupling device comprising:

a first pipe section; and

a second pipe section, the first pipe section and the second pipe sections being movable relative to each other; ~~[[and]]~~

~~a coupling device coupling the first and second pipe sections, the coupling device~~ including

~~a first flange fastened to an end of the first pipe section~~ ~~[[and]]~~ having a first flange at an end thereof, the first flange having an end face;

~~a second flange fastened to an end of the second pipe section~~ having a second flange at an end thereof, the second flange being so as to be mutually sealed with the first flange, the second flange including an end face facing the first flange, the end face of the second flange having an annular groove, the second flange further including at least one duct leading to the annular groove and being ~~operable~~ configured to selectively provide ~~[[a]]~~ compressed air or an underpressure to the annular groove;
and

a sealing element being disposed within the annular groove, the sealing element being a sealing ring made of an elastic material, the sealing ring being pressed against the end face of the first flange when the compressed air is provided to the annular groove by the at least one duct, and the sealing ring being sucked into the annular groove when the underpressure is provided to the annular groove by the at least one duct.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~cleaning, disinfecting and drying plant~~ coupling device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the sealing ring has a circular cross section.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~cleaning, disinfecting and drying plant~~ coupling device as claimed in claim 1, ~~further comprising a washing chamber and receiving trolley wherein the~~ coupling device is disposed in a cleaning, disinfecting, and drying plant so as to couple a receiving trolley and a washing chamber, the first pipe section and ~~[[its]]~~ the first flange being fastened to the receiving trolley, and the second pipe section ~~with its second flange~~ being fastened to the washing chamber, ~~and the coupling device being disposed so as to couple the receiving trolley and the washing chamber~~ by the second flange.